

# Abraham Lincoln

An Address Delivered By  
**HON. DAVID W. HENRY**  
Before Blinn Camp No. 82, Sons of Veterans  
Terre Haute, Indiana  
February 12, 1925

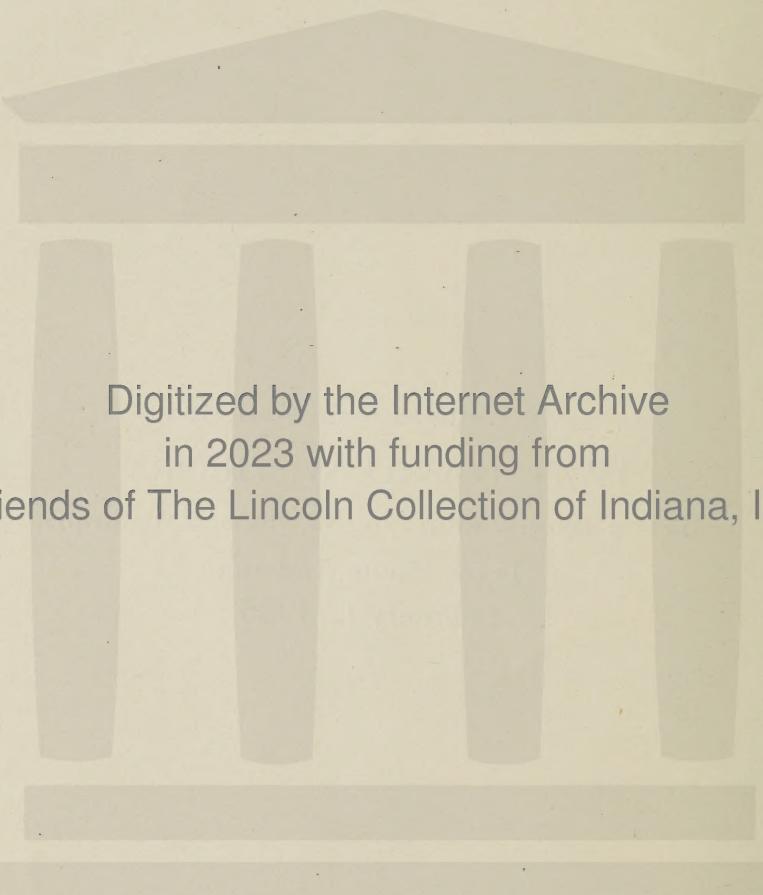




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## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

It has been the custom for several years with Blinn Camp No. 42, Sons of Veterans, to observe the anniversary of the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, February 12th, with an entertainment and banquet, to which each member is privileged to invite as his guest some survivor of the Civil War. On the occasion of this anniversary, February 12th, 1925, the main event of the evening was a naddress on "Abraham Linocln," by Hon. David W. Henry, himself the son of a Civil War veteran, and a member of Blinn Camp. Mr. Henry spoke as follows:

### MR. CHAIRMAN, FELLOW MEMBERS, SONS OF VETERANS:

To keep alive the love of our country we do well to go over some of the scenes our sires fought for, and the principles they died for, with their great and immortal commander.

I saw a cartoon. A picture of a scene one hundred and sixteen years ago. Two old fellows down in Kentucky, dressed like back-woodsmen.

One said to the other, "What's happened around here?"

The other said, "Nothing's happened around here. A boy baby was born up at Tom Lincoln's last night but nothing ever happens around here."

Sixty-four years ago we were divided into two hostile sections over an issue that had to be fought out. It was fought out by courageous, fearless, honest men on both sides, on fields of blood amid the thunder of battle. **To both sides it was final.** The last survivor on the firing lines in a very few years will be gathered to his fathers.

We are to consider one of the great characters in that war. He belongs to no party but to the world. In life he was an American. He is an American no longer.

His praises were multiplied by those living then and those born since that April evening sixty years ago when the pistol shot rang through Ford's theatre.

Statesmen of every land and clime have been students of his intellectual genius. Search has been made for every scrap of paper upon which he wrote. In the congressional library alone there are more than three thousand volumes.

Of the actual historical characters we know but little about their personalities. Washington, Adams and Jefferson are only steel engravings. We have got so far away from them that we almost forget they were human beings.

But we seem to be acquainted with Lincoln. He had no college nor university, nor diploma. He had no education nor social advantage, nor friends influential, nor wealth to aid him.

His history is the simple annals of the poor. He stands alone. He had no fellows and he has no successors. He was history's most startling wonder. Born in the Blue-grass state. At the age of seven his father brought him to Hoosierdom the same year that Indiana became a state which had 65,000 people, not as many as Terre Haute has today.

He lost his greatest friend—his mother—when he was ten. Like all the great, her teachings were in his mind even to manhood. Her grave is on the hillside looking down upon the little town of Lincoln City and was marked by a simple slab until Mr. James Studebaker of South Bend, erected a shaft to her memory. On this shaft are four words—the most precious tongue can tell or pen can write:

“MOTHER OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN”

He once wrote in a letter, “All I am and all I hope to be, I owe to my dear mother.”

He once said, “I never went to school more than six months in my life.” His family were so poor that they couldn't afford candles to read at night. In a log cabin, in front of a big fireplace, he would lie down flat on the floor, his book in front of him, his head upon his hands, he studied.

Over and over again he read his library through and through. This library consisted of the Bible, Life of Washington, Aesop's Fables, and Pilgrim's Progress. On a wooden shovel for a slate and a piece of charcoal for a pencil he figured to the “rule of three.”

One time he borrowed Weem's Life of Washington from a Mr. Crawford. The book was rained on and damaged. Having no money to pay for it he took it back and told all about it and said he would work it out. “Well, Abe,” said Mr. Crawford, “as it's you I won't be hard on you; come over and pull fodder for three days and we'll call our accounts even.”

He composed verses. One of these:

“Good boys who to their books apply,  
Will all be great men by and by.”

On the fly leaf of his school book in his fourteenth year he wrote:

“Abraham Lincoln, his hand and pen,  
He will be good but god knows When.”

His knowledge of the use of capitals was defective for this couplet shows “God” to commence with a small “g” and the word “when” to commence with a capital “W”.

In 1830 when twenty-one he moved with his father to Illinois. He had grown to manhood and before leaving the last home of his mother

he put on a wooden slab the initials, "N. H. L." and placed it securely at the head of the grave.

In 1831 on his second trip to New Orleans he witnessed for the first time the chaining together and whipping of slaves. Saw the separation of husband and wife, parent and child, when whole families were sold into slavery. He saw a beautiful mulatto girl sold at auction. He said to John Hanks, "By God, if I ever get a chance to hit that institution, I'll hit it hard, John."

He went into the Blackhawk War and was elected Captain. This is a changing world and not very big, for while in camp near the site of the present town of Dixon he met Lieut. Colonel Zachary Taylor, the same who was Captain at the battle of our Fort Harrison. He met Lieut. Jefferson Davis who was afterwards President of the Confederacy and whom Lincoln's men captured when he was fleeing. He met Lieut. Robert Anderson, the same officer who was to command the first battle whose guns electrified the north at Fort Sumter. When they met in Washington Lincoln said to him, "Major, do you remember of having met me before?" "No, Mr. President, I have no recollection." Lincoln said, "My memory is better than yours, you mustered me into the service of the United States in 1832 at Dixon's Ferry in the Blackhawk War."

At twenty-three he was a candidate for the legislature and defeated. But in his home precinct of the 208 votes cast he received all but three. This was his only defeat at the hands of the people. In running against Douglas he received a majority of the popular vote in the State of Illinois. His first speech in that campaign was brief and I quote it:

"Gentlemen, fellow citizens: I presume you all know who I am. I am humble Abraham Lincoln. I have been solicited by my friends to become a candidate for the legislature. My politics are short and sweet like the old woman's dance. I am in favor of a national bank. I am in favor of the Internal Improvement system, and of a high protective tariff. These are my sentiments and political principles. If elected, I shall be thankful; if not, it will be all the same to me."

After his defeat he turned to business. Like Patrick Henry he kept a store and like Patrick Henry he failed. His partner drank too much and he read books and told too many stories. Lincoln assumed the debts of the firm, the last of which he paid in 1848.

Lincoln at the age of twenty-four was elected. In 1836 he was again elected. In the session of 1837 when twenty-eight years old, he began his anti-slavery work which twenty-six years afterward ended finally in the Proclamation of Emancipation. He and Dan

Stone were the only two members of the legislature who signed a protest against slavery in that session.

When a boy he attended a trial at Boonville, Indiana. He conceived the idea of being a lawyer. He went home and dreamed of courts.

At thirty-two he bought a second-hand copy of Blackstone and began to study law.

Then he sought out his old time friend and fellow soldier, John T. Stewart, who was a prosperous lawyer, and loaned him law books. He lived at New Salem, fourteen miles from Springfield. When he read one book he took it back and got another. Afterwards he was offered a partnership by Stewart.

Speed in speaking of his entry into Springfield says, "He rode into town on a borrowed horse without any earthly goods except a pair of saddle-bags and two or three law books and some clothes. He set the saddle-bags on the counter. Mr. Speed kept a store. Lincoln wanted to buy the furniture for a single bed and when he learned that the whole outfit for the bed would cost \$17.00 he said:

"That's cheap enough, but small as the price is, I am unable to pay it. If you will give me credit till Christmas time, and my experiment as a lawyer succeeds, I will pay you then."

"Well," said Speed, "suppose you don't succeed."

"If I fail, I do not know that I can ever pay you," said Lincoln.

The sad tone of his voice attracted Mr. Speed and he said to him.

"I think I can suggest a plan by which you can avoid the debt and at the same time attain your end."

"Do you really think so," said Lincoln, his face brightening.

"Yes," said Speed, "I have a large room with a double bed upstairs which you are welcome to share with me."

"Where is the room?" said Lincoln.

"Upstairs," said Speed.

He took the saddle-bags upstairs, set them on the floor and came down looking very happy. He exclaimed, "Well Speed, I've moved."

Thus he began his life as a lawyer in Springfield.

In 1846 he ran for congress against the celebrated Circuit rider, Peter Cartwright, whom you have all read about.

By the way I am reminded of a story which happened in this campaign. Lincoln attended the preaching of Cartwright one evening after having spoken in the afternoon. Cartwright saw him in the

audience. After his sermon the preacher called upon all who wanted to go to Heaven to stand up. All arose but Lincoln. Then the preacher called for all who didn't want to go to Hell to stand up. Lincoln didn't stand up. Cartwright exclaimed, "I'm surprised to see Abe Lincoln sitting back there and if he don't want to go to Heaven nor escape Hell will he tell us where he does want to go." Lincoln arose slowly and replied, "I'm going to Congress."

In this congress he met most of the celebrated men. In the House was John Quincy Adams, Caleb B. Smith, Richard W. Thompson of Indiana, and Alexander H. Stephens, afterwards Vice-President of the Confederacy. Stephens said of Lincoln, "He and Lincoln were in Congress together and Lincoln was careful as to his manner, awkward in his speech but was possessed of a very strong, clear, vigorous mind. He had no model. He illustrated by story."

In the Senate was Daniel Webster, John A. Dix, Simon Cameron, John C. Calhoun, and Jefferson Davis.

The most important act of Lincoln was the introduction of a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. It was while in congress that Colonel Thompson and Lincoln first met. Thompson represented the Terre Haute and Lincoln the Springfield district. Thompson having been in congress before was better acquainted with the congressmen and the people of Washington. Both being western men they naturally became attached to each other. This friendship lasted until the death of Lincoln. Their terms expired on March 3, 1849, and both went to their homes.

Lincoln sought the appointment of Commissioner of the General Land Office and wrote Colonel Thompson the following letter, which has never before been published:

(CONFIDENTIAL)

Springfield, Ill., May 25, 1849.

Col. R. W. Thompson,  
Terre Haute, Indiana.

Dear Sir:—

"I am about to ask a favor of you, and one which I hope will not cost you much. I understand the General Land Office is about to be given to Illinois; and that Mr. Ewing desires Justin Butterfield of Chicago to be the man. I will not trouble you with particulars, but will assure you that the appointment of Mr. Butterfield will be an egregious political blunder. I believe it will gratify no single Whig in the state, except it be Mr. B. himself.

Now the favor I wish of you is, that you will write General Taylor at once, saying that in your opinion, either I, OR THE MAN I RECOMMEND, should be appointed to that office, if anyone from Illi-

nois shall be. I restrict my request to Illinois, because I think it probable you have already recommended someone, probably from your own state, and I do not wish to interfere with that."

Yours truly,

A. LINCOLN."

Mr. Butterfield got the place. Lincoln was then offered the governorship of the state of Oregon. This he declined. If Lincoln's request had been granted and his appointment had been secured at the request of Colonel Thompson we would not be here celebrating the anniversary of his birth. Had Lincoln been selected for this position his great character would have been buried in a small official position and he would never have been President of the United States and the map of this country might have been changed.

I call attention to this for the reason that there seemed to be a guiding hand holding Mr. Lincoln in the background so that he could prepare for the great struggle which was to come like a hurricane in this country and he was soon to make more history than any man since Washington. However, to this poor struggling country lawyer this position was an attractive one.

Remember that this letter was dated in 1849. I have another letter written by Lincoln in 1850 a little more than a year after. In closing he said:

"One part of your letter induces me to say that I would not now accept the land office if it were offered to me. Yours as ever.

A. LINCOLN."

In 1848, Lincoln wrote his biography, and it was the only history of himself, written by himself, which he then expected to be printed.

"Born Feb. 12, 1809, in Hardin County Kentucky. Education defective. Profession, Lawyer. Have been a captain of a volunteer company in Black Hawk War. Also postmaster at a very small office. Four times member of Illinois Legislature, and was a member of the Lower House of Congress." Yours, etc.,

A. LINCOLN."

In the winter of 1854 the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused him. He could not refrain from returning to politics. The great barrier against the extension of slavery was assailed by the most powerful man in congress, Senator Douglas who was the author of the bill to repeal the Missouri Compromise.

To sum up his position at that time in all his speeches he was not an abolitionist. Believed slavery was wrong but was entitled to its constitutional rights and no more. That the government had no right to interfere where it then existed. He was opposed to any further extension into new states and territories. It was a call to arms.

At twenty-three he had formed an aversion to slavery and now took up the fight against its extension and from that time he made up his mind that he would be the next Senator from Illinois and wrote to a friend of his:

"I would rather have a full term as U. S. Senator than the Presidency."

From that time began his campaign against the position of Senator Douglas.

In order to determine the strength and position of the man he was to attack, let us take the measure of his antagonist. Douglas at twenty walked into the town of Winchester, Illinois, and immediately entered upon a career which hardly has a parallel in human success. At thirty years he had been a member of the Illinois legislature, state's attorney, register of the land office, secretary of the state of Illinois, judge of the supreme court and was on his way to Washington to take his seat in Congress.

He was re-elected three successive times to the lower house and was elected to the United States senate in 1852 and was to beat Lincoln in 1858.

Twice in the national convention of his party he was a candidate for president. He had been connected with all the great measures before congress, including the carrying through of the measure that chartered the Illinois Central railroad, giving to it a large grant of land. He controlled the political patronage of Illinois, which was a most formidable organization. You can see that he would be a great and dangerous adversary.

Remember and keep in mind that Lincoln had been preparing for this conflict. He had been aroused four years before and in these four years he had been energetically organizing his forces in every part of the state.

He was a student of the Constitution; he knew the history of his government and his party and the history of the Democratic party. He knew everything about the public record of Douglas. He was a giant intellectually and physically, and above all things he was a political organizer and political leader.

Remember and keep in mind that this conflict was confined to the state of Illinois, but when these two great gladiators went into the political arena, Illinois was no longer the theater of this conflict. It spread over all the north, south, east and west, but Illinois was the center of the battle-ground and the presidency was to be the final winning stakes.

There had been great debates in the old Continental Congress. Great debates in the American Congress in 1820 and 1821 between

Webster and Hayne and Calhoun on nullification, but the debates of 1858 between Lincoln and Douglas in historic interest surpassed them all.

Douglas was so famous that everybody rushed to hear him. This fact impressed Mr. Lincoln. He wanted to reach the Democrats, so he challenged Douglas to speak from the same platform in a series of debates face to face. Lincoln met him with a very simple proposition. "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect that the Union will be dissolved. I do not expect that it will be divided. It will become all one thing or the other."

There were seven of these debates. Read them and when you have closed the book you will say they were mighty giants. Douglas was elected by these debates but they beat Douglas for the presidency two years later and elected Lincoln president.

In these debates Douglas traveled in state in the private car of George B. McClellan, at that time an official of the Illinois Central railroad company, and afterward a general in the Union army. This railroad was not as friendly to Lincoln and he occupied a half seat in a common car. Douglas spent money with a lavish hand. Lincoln had none to spend.

The slave aristocracy of the south made up their minds that they would control this government. They were successful when Missouri was admitted and it was through the influence of Henry Clay that the Missouri Compromise was made, that Missouri would be admitted a slave state, that they would concede all territory north of the south line of Missouri, or in other words, north of the parallel latitude 30-60 should be forever free, but the south would not keep this agreement when it came to the admission of Kansas and Nebraska.

Governor Wise of Virginia announced that, "Slavery should pour itself abroad and have no limit but the southern ocean."

When President Polk came to settle the war with Mexico, the United States minister at Mexico City refused to enter into negotiations that would prohibit slavery in the territory that we were to take from Mexico, and said:

"If the whole territory offered was increased ten fold in value, and covered a foot thick with pure gold upon the single condition that slavery should be excluded therefrom he would not entertain the idea nor think of communicating the proposition to Washington."

This condition of affairs brought on the "IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT."

This was the condition of affairs when Mr. Lincoln concluded to enter politics.

#### SLAVERY.

It is well enough to go back. Slavery was introduced into the colonies by the English in 1772. Virginia petitioned the British government to stop the importation of slaves. The king was in favor of slavery. At the first congress in 1774 at Philadelphia, Jefferson presented a resolution declaring, "The abolition of slavery is the greatest object of desire of these colonies."

Be it to the everlasting credit of Jefferson that in 1784 he advocated that slavery should not be allowed in the new states that were being formed in the west and northwest, and it was nearly one hundred years before that proposition became a law of Congress.

In 1787 as governor of Virginia he wrote an ordinance ceding the Northwest Territory to the United States and in that document there was a covenant that slavery should be forever forbidden in the Northwest Territory.

Had Jefferson's advice been followed in all probability we would have never had the Civil War because it grew out of the extension of slavery in the new states. The fathers and founders of this Republic were against slavery and in the Declaration of Independence they laid down the proposition that "all men are created equal." It was upon this rock that Lincoln stood when he entered politics.

Washington wrote a letter in which he said, "There is no man living who wishes more sincerely than I do to see a plan adopted for the abolition of it." And in his will he provided for the freedom of his slaves.

Coming down to after 1830, let us look at conditions. New England had the big factories and they must have cotton and cotton could not be produced without slaves, so they thought. That money, fashion and religion all combined to perpetuate slavery because they made money out of it. The first families of the North stood in with the first families of the South. Property rights were involved and property rights were more sacred than human rights.

This was in old Massachusetts and while Boston was secure in the fact that she was making money a mob broke out near where the Cradle of Liberty stood. William Lloyd Garrison was dragged down the street to be hung because he published the "Liberator." This mob woke up a young lawyer. He had descended from the Puritans. His ancestors had fought in the Revolution and Wendell Phillips

was not then an abolitionist, but was in favor of free speech and this led him to take the field for free speech. He became an abolitionist and he and his wife became social outlaws in society. In Alton, Ill., Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy had been killed by a mob for publishing what he believed against slavery.

A tremor of horror ran through the North. Not a question of slavery but free speech. Wendell Phillips made a speech at Faneuil Hall on the Lovejoy murder and that speech made abolition respectable in New England, and from that time on he gave his life to this cause. He was followed by Charles Sumner, John Q. Adams, Joshua Giddings, Horace Greeley, Fred Douglas, George W. Curtis, John G. Whittier, William H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, Ben Butler, Charles Francis Adams, William C. Bryant, John A. Dix and old Ben Wade. The momentum increased like a prairie fire. The man who was to be their leader in after years was none other than Lincoln.

In the long years after these days and times, this abolition movement is almost forgotten. Henry Watterson said, "The South never had a better friend than Lincoln." John B. Gordon, the great confederate leader, said, "We know now that slavery was a gigantic mistake."

In 1860 at the Charleston convention the Democrats of eight slave states withdrew from that convention and afterward met at Richmond and nominated Breckenridge. The Democratic party met at Baltimore and nominated Douglas. Lincoln was nominated at Chicago. He remained at home when the balloting was going on. When he read the telegram announcing his nomination he didn't stop to receive the congratulations of those around him, but said, "There is a little woman down at our house who will be glad to hear this. I'll go down and tell her."

I need not go over the campaign. It had no parallel in the history of this country. On the 7th of November the votes showed that Lincoln had been elected and would be inaugurated in four months. South Carolina rejoiced over his election with bonfires, because it furnished a pretext for secession.

One southern state after another went out of the Union. South Carolina was followed by Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas and on the 4th day of February seven states met at Montgomery and formed a government with Jefferson Davis as president and Alexander H. Stephens, vice-president. Davis was educated at West Point at the expense of the government which he sought to destroy. He was an imperious, high strung fellow, Secretary of War under Pierce, then United States senator.

Stephens was a different kind of a fellow. He was against se-

cession. He asked the members of the Georgia legislature what reason they could give for secession. He told them,

"When the south demanded slave trade, the north yielded; when they demanded three-fifths representation for their slaves the north yielded. The north yielded again and again. You will by this unwise act have your slaves taken from you by a universal emancipation."

This prophecy should have been listened to.

On the 11th of February with his family and personal friends Lincoln left his home at Springfield for Washington. If you will read his farewell speech to his neighbors when leaving his home there will be no doubt in your mind but that he was a Christian. He once said to a congressman.

"When a church shall inscribe on its altar, as its sole qualification for membership, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, with all thy mind and thy neighbor as thyself,' that church shall I join with all my soul."

He was a Christian but not orthodox. He believed in the Bible but not in creeds and dogmas and said of the Bible,

"It's the best gift which God ever gave to man." It was the cornerstone of his faith, and he followed in the footsteps of the Nazarene.

On his way he passed through Indiana, Ohio, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. A plot to assassinate him when he passed through Baltimore was discovered by Allan Pinkerton, the noted detective. The wires were cut. A special train was hurriedly made up at Harrisburg and went through Baltimore twelve hours ahead of time. He was met by Senators Washburn and Seward on his arrival at Washington and taken to the Willard Hotel.

He delivered his inaugural address and when he removed his hat to face the multitude Douglas reached out and took his hat and held it. Douglas called at the White House and tendered his services. Lincoln told him to go back to Illinois and influence his friends to hold to the Union. Four years later they joined each other on "fame's eternal camping ground." Douglas started back to his home, made speeches on the way. At Springfield he spoke to the people and said,

"So long as there was a hope of a peaceful solution I prayed and implored for a compromise and have failed. There is but one thing to do, rally around the flag, forget all party and remember only your country. THE SHORTEST ROAD TO PEACE IS THE MOST TREMENDOUS PREPARATION FOR WAR."

From Springfield he went to Chicago and in the great "Wigwam" where Lincoln was nominated repeated his appeal for the Union and said,

"THERE CAN BE NO NEUTRALS IN THIS WAR, ONLY  
PATRIOTS AND TRAITORS."

He was taken ill and at the age of forty-eight died. I never look on the shaft erected to his memory on the lake front in Chicago but I take off my hat in veneration to one of the greatest men of this western country.

What did Lincoln inherit from Buchanan? This country was like a town which had been struck with a cyclone and but for loyal old General Scott treason would have had its way. The treasury was empty. The army and navy scattered. The slave party had ruled for half a century and it was in rebellion. The officers of the army were mostly Southern men who had been educated at the expense of the government. They went with the South except Generals Scott, Thomas, Meade and Farragut. Other generals had to be trained from civil life with the exception of Grant, Sherman and others. The conspiracy had been preparing for thirty years. The administration had acted as a wrecking crew, wrecking the government, since the election of Lincoln. Buchanan, a weak old man, didn't try to stop them. Some of his cabinet went into the Confederate cabinet at Richmond.

From the day that Lincoln took the oath of office he was the biggest man in his cabinet, but not one of them but thought he was bigger than his master and those who disagreed with him were usually brought to his views because of his logical manner of handling a subject.

Here is a sample:

At one time Lincoln had thought out a policy. He called his cabinet together and carefully read it over to them, presenting his policy in detail. It was discussed freely. After the discussion he proceeded to put it to a vote. "All in favor of this policy will signify by saying 'aye'. Lincoln voted "aye" and was the only one who did.

Lincoln studied a little bit, and finally said, "Those opposed will say 'no'." All of his cabinet voted "no." He looked out of the window quite a while, and finally turned around to the members of the cabinet and said, "The ayes have it."

He had mental giants in his cabinet. They were considered authority on all matters. Stanton had the burden of the war. He was a stern disciplinarian, but faithful to Lincoln and Lincoln had

an abiding confidence in him. Many stories are told of how Stanton dominated Lincoln:

On a certain occasion it was related that the president was informed by a furious friend of his that the secretary of war had not only refused to execute an order of the president's, but had called him a fool into the bargain.

"Did Stanton say I was a fool?" inquired Lincoln.

"Yes," replied his friend, "he said you were a blank blank fool."

Lincoln looked at his friend, then out of the window in the direction of the war department, and said:

"Well, if Stanton says I am a blank, blank fool, it must be so, for Stanton is nearly always right and generally means what he says. I think I will have to step over and see Stanton."

In addition to disagreements in his official family, the great men from all over the country were disagreeing with him and were going in delegations to advise him. To all of them he listened patiently and usually dismissed them with some pertinent illustration.

He was weighted down by the cares of the war. Weighted down by dissensions in the North and among his own people. Disturbed by persons wanting favors and offices, but he rested by doing some kind act to relieve somebody.

A soldier had been turned down by every one else and went to Lincoln, who reproved the man and sent him away. After a night of remorse Lincoln entered his carriage, drove down to the hotel and hunted the soldier up and took him in his carriage and saw him through with his troubles. Stanton heard about it and apologized to Lincoln for rejecting the soldier's appeal.

"No, no," replied Lincoln, "you did right in adhering to your rules. If we had such a soft-headed old fool as I am in your place there would be no rules that the army could depend upon."

He thought he knew how to deal with the rebellion but the office-seekers demanded all of his time.

"I am," he said, "like the man so busy in letting rooms in one end of his house that he can't stop to put out the fire that is burning the other end."

As time went on the absorbing question was, freeing the slaves. What effect it would have on the border states was a question. They thought the border states would take a gradual emancipation for

compensation. So in March, 1862, in a message to congress, Lincoln said,

"In my judgment, gradual, and not sudden, emancipation is better for all. That the United States ought to co-operate with any state which may adopt a gradual abolition of slavery by compensating them."

This proposition was denounced. Roscoe Conkling, then in the house, said, "it was like giving diluted milk."

On the 12th of July, the president invited members of congress from the border states and begged them to accept compensation for their slaves before it was too late to secure compensation and by doing so save the Union.

Lincoln had two intimate friends in congress. They belonged to opposite parties, both Union men—John J. Crittenden of Kentucky and Owen Lovejoy of Illinois, both devoted to Lincoln, and each had his confidence. Against emancipation the great Crittenden said:

"There is a niche in the temple of fame—a niche near to Washington. It is in his power to occupy a place next to Washington—the FOUNDER and PRESERVER side by side."

Lovejoy, whose brother was murdered by a mob, in answer said:

"I, too, have a niche for Abraham Lincoln, but it is in freedom's holy fane, and not in the blood-besmeared temple of human bondage; not surrounded by slaves, fetters and chains. It is a fame worth living for: aye, more, that is a fame worth dying for."

On the 22nd of September, 1862, the Proclamation was published. The final one was issued on the first of January in 1863. When the paper was brought to him by Seward to be signed, Lincoln said, "Mr. Seward, I have been shaking hands all day, and my right hand is almost paralyzed. If my name ever gets into history it will be for this act, and my soul is in it." Resting his arm a moment he turned to the table, took up his pen and slowly and firmly wrote, "Abraham Lincoln." He smiled, handed the paper to Mr. Seward and said, "That will do."

He had done what Alexander H. Stephens predicted he could do.

Bells rang out over all New England, all New York, over the mountains, over Pennsylvania across the prairies over the West to and beyond the Rocky Mountains. Great meetings were held. Governors of the loyal states held a meeting at Altoona and sent a message of congratulation.

Congress in December adopted a resolution sanctioning it. Con-

gratulations come pouring in from Great Britain. John Q. Adams away back in 1836 had made the statement, "I lay down this as a law of nations that in case of war the president of the United States, and the commander of all armies, has power to order universal emancipation of the slaves." The right had been claimed and exercised by Great Britain during the Revolutionary War.

Our armies began to win battles. On the 4th of July Grant captured Vicksburg and opened up the Mississippi to its mouth. The battle of Gettysburg was fought and Lee was chased out of the north forever. The turn of the tide in the war had been passed and on the 19th of November of that year Edward Everett in a great masterly speech consecrated the ground at Gettysburg and his speech was followed by a very short speech by Lincoln.

There are four instances in the history of the world when great deeds have been celebrated. The well known epitaph upon the Spartans who died at Thermopylae; the words of Demosthenes on those Greeks who fell at Marathon; the speech of Webster of those who died at Bunker Hill and the words of Lincoln of those who laid down their lives on the field of Gettysburg.

Lincoln turned to Everett and grasped his hand and said, "I congratulate you on your success." Everett replied, "Ah, Mr. President, how gladly would I exchange all of my hundred pages to have been the author of your twenty lines."

Lincoln had tried several generals and had made little progress along the Potomac for two years. McClellan was a fine organizer and had a fine army but Lincoln couldn't get him to fight. Speaking of him at one time he said, "McClellan is a great man, a fine engineer, but a **stationary** engineer." Lincoln had heard of Belmont, Fort Donaldson, Shilo and Vicksburg. The name of the commander of these battles had filled the land with renown but was personally unknown in Washington. So Lincoln sent for him to make him Lieutenant General, commander of all the armies.

He came to a Washington hotel to register, a cigar in his mouth, an old army hat on his head, a linen duster on his back and was told that he could get no room except at the top of the house, but he went on writing his name.

When the startled clerk turned the register around and read, "U. S. Grant and Son, Galena, Illinois," he at once assigned him to the finest parlor in the hotel.

He went to the White House, where there was a reception going on. He was recognized by the president. When parting from the president that evening he said, "This has rather been the warmest campaign I have witnessed since the war." He then visited the

armies of the Potomac and returned to Washington for an interview with the president and the secretary of war regarding the future plans and prepared to leave for the west. He was told by the president that Mrs. Lincoln wanted him to attend a dinner in his honor. Grant said,

"Mrs. Lincoln must excuse me. I must be in Tennessee at a given time." "But we can't excuse you," said the president. "I appreciate the honor Mrs. Lincoln would do me," said the general, "but time is very important and really, Mr. Lincoln, I have had enough of this show business." General Grant went west without waiting for the dinner.

After that Lincoln no longer troubled himself with the direction of his armies.

Grant, commander-in-chief. Sherman on his way through the solid south, "from Atlanta to the sea," with Meade, the hero of Gettysburg, and Sheridan, made immortal by the poet in "Sheridan Twenty Miles Away."

In March, 1865, Lincoln went to City Point on the James river, where he had a conference with Grant and Sherman. A survey was made of the strength of all the armies and it was their judgment that Sherman with 80,000 men, as brave as Caesar's legions, and with Grant's army, Lee would have to surrender. Lincoln, when told "One more battle was likely to occur before the end," exclaimed, "Must more blood be shed? Cannot this bloody battle be avoided?" Even when they were consulting, Sheridan cut off Lee's chance to escape and in ten days' marching and fighting with Sheridan's cavalry in the lead, Grant's infantry, moving like a solid wall, finished the campaign.

Appomattox came quickly. Grant returned Lee's sword. Johnson surrendered to Sherman. The war was over.

There are three great state papers which mark the progress of the Anglo-Saxon civilization. First is the "Magna Charta" wrested by the barons of England from King John. Second, the "Declaration of Independence" and third, worthy to be placed upon the tablets of history with the first two, is Abraham Lincoln Emancipation Proclamation.

2,800,000 men to leave home and family.

300,000 men to die in camp and battle.

175,000 men to die in rebel prison dens.

500,000 men came back diseased and wounded to live in torment the remainder of their lives.

These men marched and fought and died at the call of Lincoln

and under his command. They followed the Stars and Stripes and captured the Stars and Bars.

This is what Emancipation cost. We fought eight million people and four million human beings changed their chains for liberty.

There is but one other name in American history which can be mentioned with Lincoln's as that of a peer, the name of Washington. Lincoln was as pure, as just, as patriotic as the father of his country. He had more faith in the people and they had an eternal confidence in him.

Sitting in a box in the theatre, watching a play called "Our American Cousin"; in the box were the president and Mrs. Lincoln; back of them were Miss Clara Harris and Major Rathbone. Miss Harris and Major Rathbone were lovers. The shot by a miserable person, who sent the president to his death, made the life of Mrs. Lincoln sad and melancholy. The assassin, with the stain of murder on his soul and the curse of the world against him, with a price set upon his head, was hunted as a wild beast until death overtook him with the bullet of Boston Corbett in a burning building.

"Flowers beautified the lifeless remains, dirges were sung, people's great hearts broke out into sobs and sighs, and so home to the prairie they bore him, whom, when first he was called, the nation knew him not. Who, mid the storm and raging of those years of the Civil War, they had loved to call father and friend."

Some years ago I visited Oak Ridge cemetery, in his own Springfield. On the 4th day of May, 1865, they laid him to rest, and over him they built a great shaft, enduring—but not as enduring as his immortal fame. In the language of Judge Malone:

"A blend of mirth and sadness, smiles and tears,  
A quaint knight-errant of the pioneers,  
A homely hero, born of star and sod,  
A peasant prince—a masterpiece of God."

There is one instance in my uneventful life which I shall never forget and that is when I sat at breakfast one morning in a city of the southwest and heard the bells ringing the birth of a new state. I said to myself, "Ring for the old, ring for the new, ring for the Union." That day a state was born, and took her place with the united country which Lincoln died for saving—the man who bore the mission from God on high, when he said "A house divided against itself cannot stand; this nation cannot exist half slave and half free," which goes sounding down through the corridors of time with that other immortal Revolutionary battle cry of Patrick Henry, "Give me liberty or give me death."





